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Donovan Negotiated 'Privately'

MILWAUKEE (AP)

Attorney James Donovan of New York says he was acting as a private citizen in negotiations for the exchange of Cuban prisoners.

"I was a private citizen acting on behalf of the Cuban Families Committee, which is made up of parents of prisoners of the invasion," Donovan said as he stopped here briefly en route to State Bar of Wisconsin meeting at Delevan.

Thirteen Republican members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee asked Tuesday for an opportunity to question Donovan about his negotiations with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

"I don't think my role has been in any manner unknown," Donovan said, "and my answer would be the same whether it was 13 members of the Congress who were Republicans, Democrats or any other party.

He was asked if he wonders why his role in the release of the prisoners is being questioned at this time.

"No," he said, "except that I would wish all 13 good luck in the next election."